

Message from the President of the Biotechnology Center

Six months ago, Governor Easley charged the Biotechnology Center with developing a long-term strategic plan to guide future state investments in biotechnology and appointed a blue-ribbon steering committee to help facilitate our success. To ensure broad participation and diversity of views in the planning process, we promptly convened nearly 120 North Carolinians representing our many industrial, academic, governmental and community partners throughout the state. The result is *New Jobs Across North Carolina: A Strategic Plan for Growing the Economy Statewide through Biotechnology*.

The plan's stated goal of 48,000 and 125,000 biotechnology-related jobs in North Carolina by 2013 and 2023 respectively is clearly ambitious. To those of us familiar with North Carolina's strong biotechnology assets, the goal is aggressive but fully achievable. Success, however, will depend on substantial and sustained investments in the strategies outlined in this plan and strong support from the parties involved with their implementation.

Accounting for 10 percent of all U.S. biotechnology jobs and revenue and with the fastest rate of growth of new companies in the country, North Carolina is already a leading site for biotechnology economic development. *New Jobs Across North Carolina* builds upon that success by leveraging the talents and resources of all participants in our large and cohesive biotechnology community. The plan lays out an ambitious but realistic roadmap for moving the entire state forward in biotechnology development. The plan stresses new job creation but does so without neglecting important ethical, social and cultural considerations.

New Jobs Across North Carolina presents a comprehensive approach to new job creation that balances support for university and company spinouts with the attraction of more mature and emerging life sciences companies to North Carolina. The 54 strategies described in the plan take advantage of existing strengths and infrastructure and continue to build on recent investments in workforce training and regional initiatives. Biomanufacturing is given priority attention for its unique ability to bring biotechnology-related jobs to the more rural parts of North Carolina. Creating and attracting biotechnology start-ups and strengthening biotechnology development throughout the state are also identified as immediate priorities.

The Biotechnology Center looks forward to working with the Governor, Council of State, General Assembly and all of North Carolina's biotechnology community to implement the strategic plan. Our thanks go to Steering Committee Co-chairs Jim Hunt and Jim Martin and all participants for their valuable input to the strategic plan. On a personal note, I would like to thank the Board of Directors of the Biotechnology Center for their support throughout the planning process and their unanimous endorsement of the final product. Most importantly, I thank my staff at the Biotechnology Center and acknowledge their enormous contributions to the strategic plan.

— Leslie M. Alexandre, Dr.P.H

President and Chief Executive Officer, North Carolina Biotechnology Center